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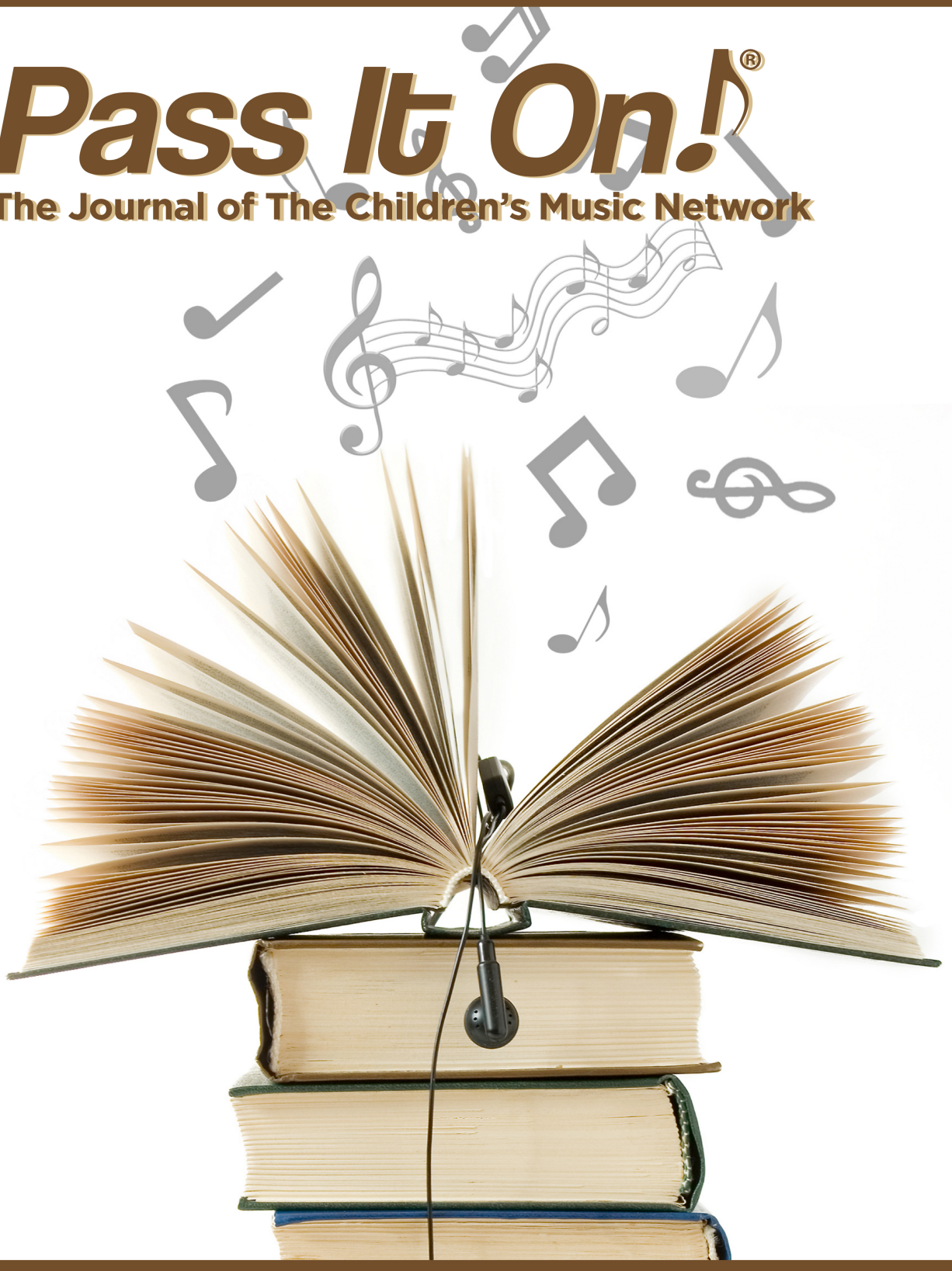
The Journal of The Children's Music Network



Fall 2023 | Issue #102

Read and Sing

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Becoming Mirror Makers

If you've spent much time around children's writers, educators, and librarians, you may have heard us talking about *mirror books*. That's not just because we're all big Lewis Carroll fans. Some books, when viewed by the right person, in the right lighting conditions, and from the right angle, can reflect our own experiences back at us. Page 3.

Read and Sing: An Annotated, Recommended Book List

I have always loved to read books to children and to sing with them. What could be better than putting the two together? Combining singing or music with the written word is so good for young brains and is so much fun! Page 8.

In Memoriam: Patty Zeitlin

Throughout all the years I have composed and performed for young children, I have been fortunate to have been influenced and mentored by some brilliant songwriters. One of the most inspiring was my longtime friend, the author, playwright, songsmith, and early childhood icon, Patty Zeitlin. Page 14.

In Memoriam: Uncle Ruthie Buell

Uncle Ruthie Buell and I were pals. We went out to movies and meals, cooked each other lunch, fed the ducks at the park, and most gloriously, exchanged songs at her piano. I sang one for every ten by her—she was hard to stop once she got going, and I did not want her to stop! Page 16.

Playlists for Fall 2023

Two fall playlists devoted to songs about reading. From learning the alphabet to setting out on fabulous adventures through new worlds, these songs explore the countless gifts that children can find in the pages of a book. Page 18.

I Love Reading

This song combines a playful journey through some much-loved books with a catchy refrain that perfectly reflects this issue’s theme. Page 22.

Becoming Mirror Makers

by Evalyn Harper[1]

If you've spent much time around children's writers, educators, and librarians, you may have heard us talking about *mirror books*. That's not just because we're all big Lewis Carroll fans. The concept of a mirror book actually comes from an essay published by the mother of multicultural children's literature, Professor Rudine Sims Bishop, titled "Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors."[2] In this essay, Bishop explains that books are windows, "offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined." In other words, books offer us a glimpse into the experiences of others.

Some books, when viewed by the right person, in the right lighting conditions, and from the right angle, can reflect our own experiences back at us. These are what we call mirror books. In the world of children's literature, we often use this framework as a jumping-off point in discussions surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. I believe that it could also be applied to the Children's Music Network members' work as social justice advocates, literacy builders, and songwriters.

Growing up, I thought the answer to any problem could be found within the pages of a book. There is no shortage of stories about curious young girls who sometimes struggle with making friends, or standing up to bullies, or navigating their many crushes on boys. In other words, I had plenty of mirrors to see myself in. Not every young reader is so lucky. Because most books that get published are written from a straight, white, able-bodied, cisgender perspective, it can be difficult for readers from marginalized backgrounds to find books that reflect their lived experiences. This is especially true for readers who fall into the intersection of marginalized groups.

When I was fifteen years old, I came out to myself as bisexual. This is still one of the scariest things I've ever done, in part because acknowledging my sexuality as an essential part of my identity left me somewhat mirrorless. I could still catch glimpses of myself in the stories I read, but they were spread out across the shelves.

> **"It can be difficult for readers from marginalized backgrounds to find books that reflect their lived experiences, especially those who fall into the intersection of marginalized groups."**

If I put the feather-light nervousness of Lara Jean's many crushes in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* next to the fear keeping Simon Spier in the closet in *Simon vs. the Homosapien's Agenda* and squinted, I could just about make out something resembling my lived experience. Because I have always loved the search for the perfect book, I began to dig, going out of my way to seek out books by and about bisexual individuals. Often, I had to preorder these titles myself, because it seemed as if my local library would only purchase a visibly LGBTQIA+ book if it hit the bestseller list. I often wonder what would have happened if I had faced these same obstacles when I first began reading at five, instead of at fifteen. If I hadn't been able to see myself in books, or only saw myself in narratives about the history of my own oppression, would I still have developed a deep love of literature? Or would I have written off books as something that weren't for me? Sadly, this is the reality for a lot of kids. For a more educated perspective on the impact this can have on children, I encourage you to read Bishop's original essay in its entirety.

Historically, people of color and queer people have not been able to find their stories published in books. Although more diverse titles are being released every year, they still often struggle to make it into the hands of young readers—in no small part because there are people out there fighting to create as many obstacles for them as possible. In 2022, the American Library Association (ALA) recorded over one thousand attempted book bans, targeting 2,571 unique titles (see Banned and Challenged Books[3], a website of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom). This was the highest number on record since the ALA began collecting data on the subject twenty years ago.

The vast majority of challenged titles were written by or about LGBTQIA+ individuals and/or Black people, indigenous people, and people of color. Look at the top ten challenged books from any given year, and you're likely to notice a majority of them were written for children and young adults. Even in areas where books aren't actively being banned, librarians and educators are forced to consider whether putting a book on their shelves would be worth potentially inviting a challenge.

This is the landscape in which authors are trying to write stories for children and educators are trying to engage children in reading. It's also the landscape in which your music is being received. When we ask children to engage with books, we must also ask ourselves: *How can we make sure every child is given the resources to find their mirror stories?*

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Of course, books aren't the only medium for stories that can become mirrors. We can use this framework to discuss all different modes of storytelling, including songwriting. I hope all you songwriters are wondering: *How can we become mirror makers?*

You start by being aware that we can't all be mirror makers for every child. The more a song's perspective aligns with the perspective of its listener, the more mirror-like it becomes. If you want to polish up a song until it shines enough to reflect a diverse array of listeners, I'd recommend incorporating into your writing process feedback from people whose background and perspectives differ from your own.

Last summer, my father, children's songwriter and longtime CMN member Monty Harper, asked for my feedback on a song he was writing with LGBTQIA+ inclusivity in mind. The song was all about the experience of having a crush. The first verse began with the question, "Have you ever had a crush on a girl or a boy?" while the second verse asked, "Have you ever had a crush on a they or a them?" I was happy to see him attempting to cover all the bases of both gender and sexuality, but I immediately flagged that second line as an issue.

While well intentioned, using the phrase "a they or a them" as shorthand for a nonbinary individual came across as othering. Besides, not all nonbinary people even use the pronouns they/them/theirs. After explaining my concerns, I asked him if he'd consider writing a version of the song without any gendered language in it. At first, I got a little pushback. He was worried that if he didn't explicitly acknowledge multiple genders that people wouldn't understand the song was supposed to be about diversity.

There are a lot of kids' songs about diversity. These are songs that ask the listener to observe examples of diversity and recognize them as part of a wider world, which can be a great exercise in building empathy. One example is "Love Makes a Family" by Two of a Kind. Throughout that song, the singer describes various families they've interacted with—from adoptive families, to multigenerational families, to a family with two mothers—all brought together by love. This is a wonderful *window* song because it helps kids think about the different shapes that a family unit can take. However, because the song is sung from the perspective of an outsider, it wouldn't make a great *mirror* song for an adoptee or a child with same-sex parents. These children already know there are different types of families because they're living in one.

I heard "Love Makes a Family" and other songs like it frequently growing up, so I already knew that there were families with two moms, yet I struggled to recognize the feelings I sometimes had for other girls as the crushes that they were. That was, at least in part, because the image I had in my head of what a crush was supposed to look like was steeped in outdated gender roles. If you're a girl and you have a crush, you scribble little hearts around their name in the margins of your notebook. If you have a crush on a girl, you yank her pigtails. I wasn't doing either of those things. There were just some girls I always hoped would pick me as their partner in dance class, or who I really, *really* wanted to play Barbies with. Those things looked more like friendship than a crush, and so I never really considered that the underlying feelings might be more than that. I really could have benefited from a song that encouraged me to think about what a crush feels like, rather than giving more examples of what it could look like.

So, let's look at an excerpt from the latest version of my father's song, "Crush":

> Did you ever have a crush (yeah yeah yeah yeah)
> On someone from afar? (so far)
> And your brain is full of mush (yeah yeah yeah yeah)
> You've been bedazzled by the brightest shooting star
>
> Did you ever have a crush (yeah yeah yeah yeah)
> And you know that it's real (so real)
> All you wanna do is gush (yeah yeah yeah yeah)
> No one else could ever feel the way you feel
>
> Your mom would say it's only puppy love
> Your friends might shame you for the one you love
> So you keep secret who you're dreaming of
> But you'd share if you could, yeah you totally would
> Just to say their name would make you happy

This song started as an overview of the different people you might have a crush on, categorized clumsily by gender. Now it's less about who you like and more about how it feels. By freeing the lyrics from the constraints of the gender binary, we've opened it up to the full scope of a child's romantic imagination, leaving space for the listener to reflect on their own experiences. This isn't a song about diversity, but it is one that is informed by diverse perspectives.

Of course, there are still some people who won't see themselves reflected in the song, whether they haven't had their first crush yet or they just don't experience romantic attraction. A song about having a crush isn't ever going to reflect the lived experience of an aromantic individual. That doesn't make "Crush" a bad song. It just means that there's a hole in the catalog for some awesome aro-spec[4] songwriters to fill with songs that will help kids navigate that facet of their identity.

Which brings me to my other piece of advice: Give yourself permission to write songs that you know not every child will relate to. Over the years I've observed that a common goal when it comes to children's music is helping children understand their place in the world. Often that results in songs about experiences like losing a tooth or having stage fright —things that, while they can be weird and scary, are also completely normal and happen to everybody, right? Well, maybe not. Personally, I never suffered from stage fright as a kid, and several of my baby teeth held on stubbornly until they had to be surgically removed. We don't all experience the same things in the same ways and understanding that is also an important part of understanding your place in the world.

So, sing us stories about the things that make you uniquely you. Invite us to share in your culture or understand the obstacles you've overcome. These songs will become windows through which children can look into your unique perspective on the world. And the children who need it the most won't see just you in the song. They'll also see a beautiful reflection of themselves.

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1. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/pass-it-on/author/evalyn-harper
2. https://scenicregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Mirrors-Windows-and-Sliding-Glass-Doors.pdf
3. https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks
4. https://www.aromanticism.org/en/basic-terms

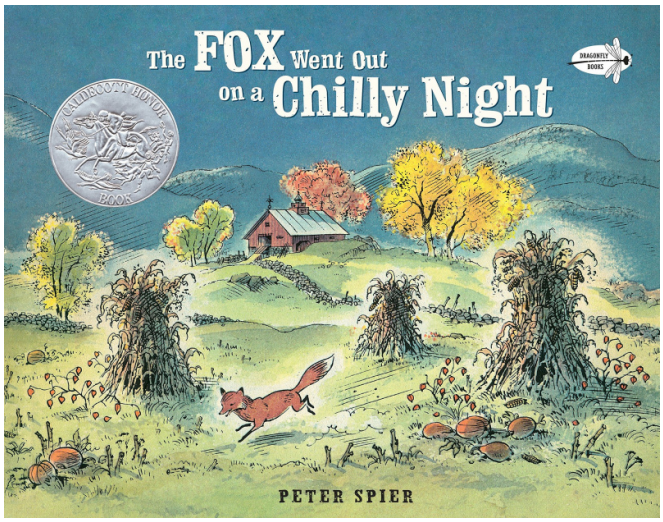
Read and Sing: An Annotated, Recommended Book List

by Liz Benjamin[1]

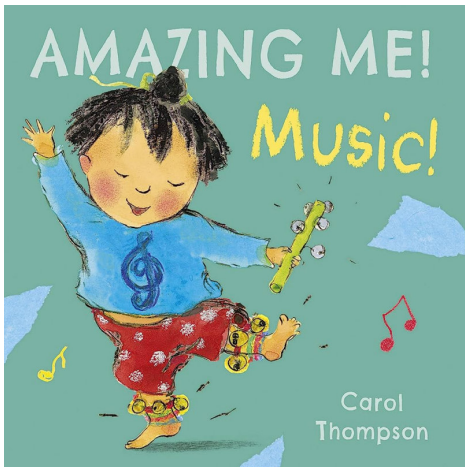
I have always loved to read books to children and to sing with them. What could be better than putting the two together? When we read to children, they see the pictures, they follow along with the story as it unfolds, and they ponder what might happen if things went this way or if things went the other way. When we sing with children, they internalize the patterns of the tunes and the words, if there is a chorus. They anticipate what might happen musically. Combining singing or music with the written word is so good for young brains and is so much fun!

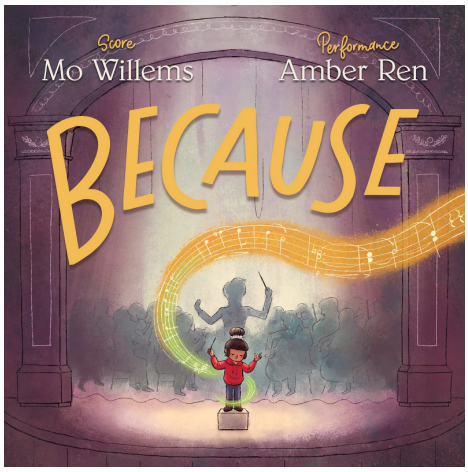
Being right there in person with children and books is always best, I believe, but online gifts can't be ignored. So, I've cited a few YouTube treasures along with these book reviews.

Let's start with an old favorite:



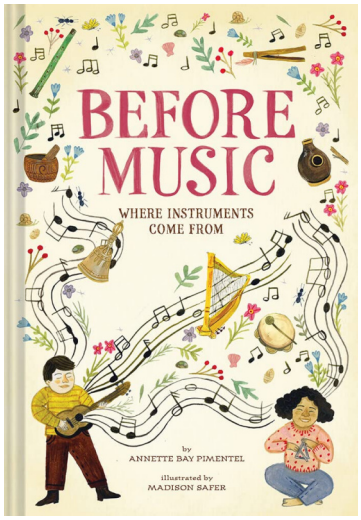
The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night, illustrated by Peter Spier, first published in 1961, Doubleday Books for Young Readers. Color pictures are set on pages opposite black and white pictures. This is a Caldecott Honor book. In 2013, Spier added color to the black and white drawings. His watercolor paintings are gorgeous and full of the tiny, intriguing details that Spier's art is noted for. They are inspired by a trip he took to Vermont in the fall. The painting of the fox grabbing a goose and slinging a duck across his back is amazingly full of flapping and feathers. On the page where the music is printed, a really funny painting illustrates the foxes and some geese singing together around a piano.

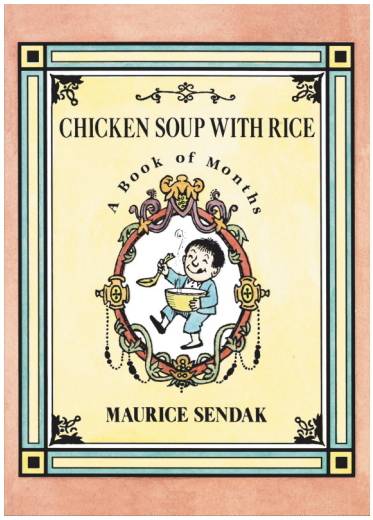




Amazing Me! Music! by Carol Thompson, Child's Play International, 2019. This simple and delightful board book has lovely pictures of many diverse children having a wonderful time playing instruments, singing, and moving to music.

Because, written by Mo Willems, illustrated by Amber Ren, Hyperion Books for Children, 2019. This book is about inspiration, from Beethoven to Schubert to a girl who, by good luck, attended a symphony orchestra concert and was changed. This happened because of the musicians who practiced, because of the train conductor who brought them to the concert hall, because of the workers who made posters and cleaned the hall, because of the ushers, and the orchestra conductor. The pictures show the inspiring music flowing through every page. Schubert's music is on the front end paper and Hilary Purrington's composition, "The Cold," is featured on the rear end paper. You never know what will inspire a child!



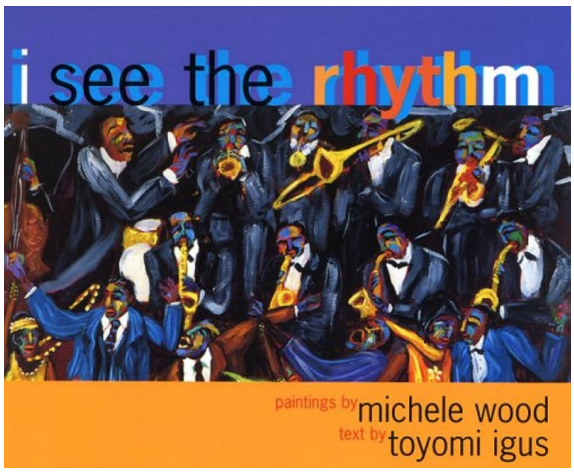


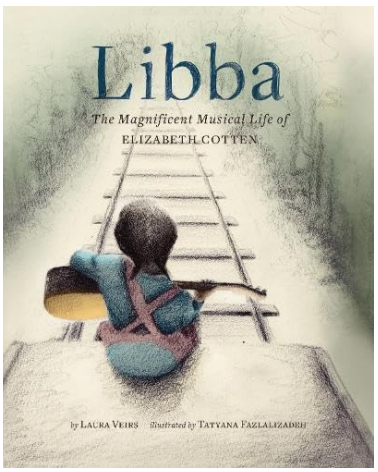
Before Music: Where Instruments Come From, by Annette Bay Pimentel, illustrated by Madison Safer, Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2022. Discover how music is made in this survey of musical instruments from around the world. The instruments are organized by material, from wood to gourds to found objects and more, and there is a ton of information for curious readers. The sidebars offer much more to discover, including extensive instrument lists and short bios of musical innovators.

Chicken Soup With Rice: A Book of Months, by Maurice Sendak, Harper Collins, 1962, and the "Chicken Soup With Rice" song by Carole King on her *Really Rosie* record album, 1975. This charming poem takes us on a romp through the year, with delightful illustrations showing how to use or enjoy chicken soup with rice in twelve fun-to-imagine ways.

> In January it's so nice
> While slipping on the sliding ice
> To sip hot chicken soup with rice
> Sipping once, sipping twice
> Sipping chicken soup with rice

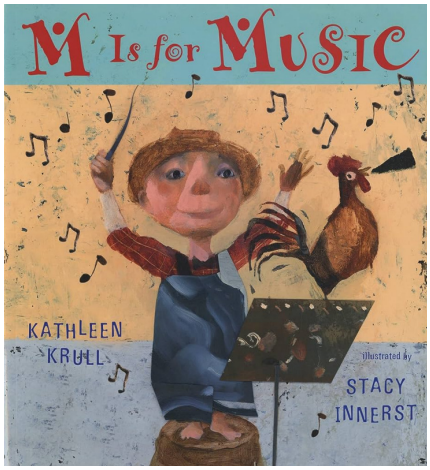
. . . all the way through December. Carole King's song, based on the little book in Sendak's Nutshell Library series, is very catchy and hard to forget. Both can be enjoyed in this "Chicken Soup With Rice" video[2], excerpted from the *Really Rosie* half-hour animated television special, originally aired in 1975. The special comprised several other Sendak titles set to King's music and later was adapted for the stage.





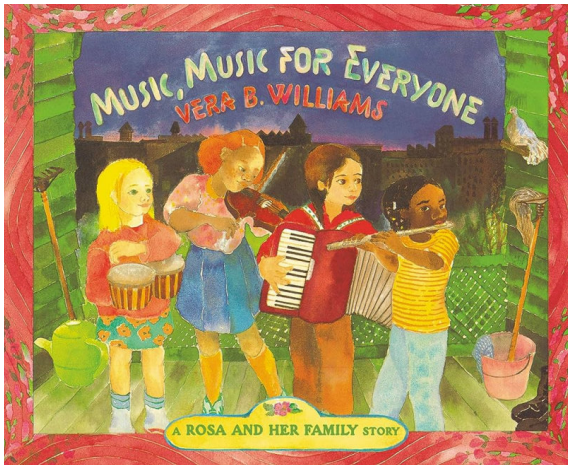
I See the Rhythm by Toyomi Igus, paintings by Michele Wood, Children's Book Press, 1998. This book offers a look at the history of African American music through the eyes of an artist. As Michele Wood painted, she listened to the different styles of music and imagined herself back in the times when the music was created. Toyomi Igus listened to the music and looked at Michele's paintings and was inspired to write poems about each musical scene over the past four hundred years. The styles include spirituals, blues, ragtime, jazz, swing, bebop, gospel, rhythm and blues, rock and roll, hip-hop, and funk—what a rich diversity!

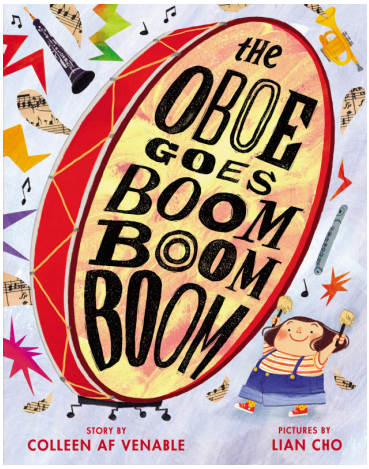
Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotten, by Laura Veirs, illustrated by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, Chronicle Books, 2018. This lyrical, loving picture book tells the story of the determined, gifted, daring Elizabeth Cotten (1893–1987). As a little girl, she taught herself how to play her brother's guitar—upside down and backward, because she was left-handed. At age eleven, she wrote "Freight Train," which became one of the most famous folk songs of the twentieth century. She was discovered by the folk-singing Seeger family while working for them as a housekeeper. By the end of her life, people everywhere knew her music. The message of never giving up on a dream, no matter the circumstances, will resonate deeply with readers.



M Is for Music, by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Stacy Innerst, Harcourt Children's Books, 2003. This alphabet book, going from *Aa is for anthem and accordion* to *Zz is for zydeco, zither, and all forms of zippy music*, is a treasure trove of varied music words. On many pages, there are words I had to look up, like *zapateado* and *zarzuela*. The words are hidden in creative ways within the illustrations, so each page calls for a treasure hunt amid fascinating and funny pictures.

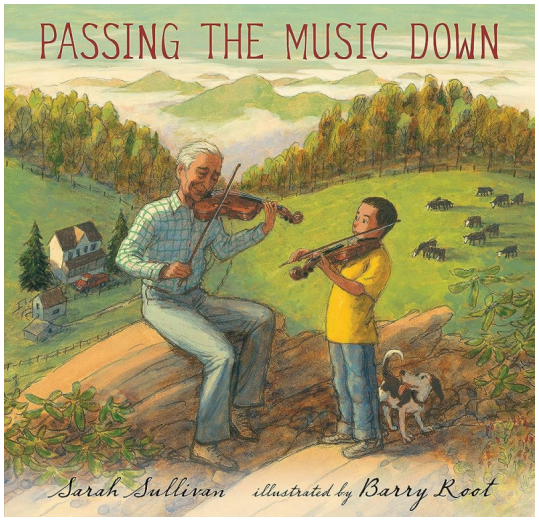
Music Is . . ., by Brandon Stosuy, illustrated by Amy Martin, Little Simon, 2016. This Spanish/English bilingual board book is not just for the youngest children. The many varieties of music—for example, loud and quiet, sad and happy, a capella and instrumental, old and new, acoustic and electric—are illustrated with vivid colors, both abstract and accurate. This *Music Is . . .* video[3] uses mainly classical selections, but there are also examples of pop, folk, ragtime, jazz, and electronic music. The conclusion is that music is definitely for you.

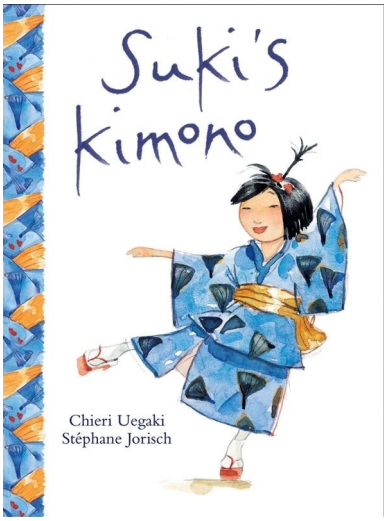




Music, Music for Everyone, by Vera B. Williams, Greenwillow Books, 1988. The narrator of this lovely picture book plays the accordion, along with her friends, who play the drums, flute, and fiddle. They form the Oak Street Band, and they practice until they can play for a big neighborhood party, where everyone dances outside. The narrator uses the payment she gets to help her family take care of her ill grandmother.

The Oboe Goes Boom Boom Boom, by Colleen A. F. Venable, pictures by Lian Cho, Greenwillow Books, 2020. A drummer constantly interrupts the description of all the other band instruments. Each instrument has its construction, technique, and sound described in interesting detail and fetching images. Words, art, and music interact, each having a variety of tones, punctuations, harmony, and colors.

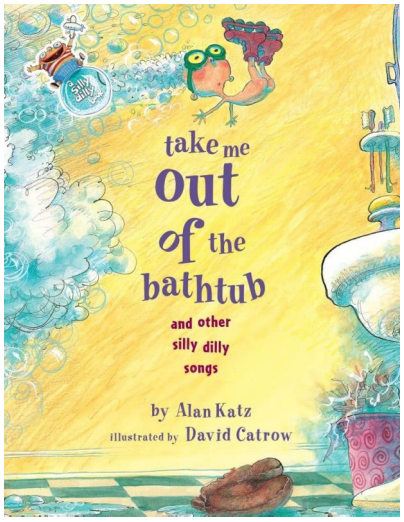


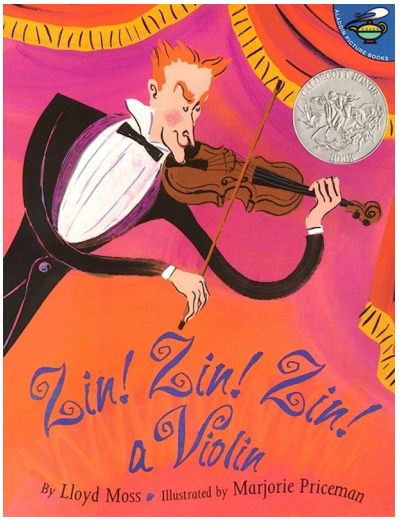


Passing the Music Down, by Sarah Sullivan, illustrated by Barry Root, Candlewick Press, 2011. This is a warmhearted ode to an American musical tradition and to generational ties, told in lyrical free verse with atmospheric illustrations. Travel with a young boy to the hills of Appalachia to meet his hero, an old-time fiddle player, and see how their friendship creates a bond between generations. Inspired by the lives of renowned fiddlers Melvin Wine and Jake Krack, the book includes a note from the author and suggests resources for researching the music and musicians who inspire us.

Suki's Kimono by Chieri Uegaki, illustrated by Stéphane Jorische, Kids Can Press, 2005. It is the first day of school, and although her older sisters wanted to look cool and fit in, Suki decides to wear the kimono and wooden clogs her grandmother had given her. While some children snicker and stare, Suki does not respond. She tells the class and the teacher about

the Japanese festival she and her grandmother had attended, and then she dances. Everyone is quiet, and Suki is worried, but then the teacher starts to clap, and the whole class joins in. Suki dances all the way home from school that day. The pictures are beautiful, and this emotional story is very powerful.





Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs, by Alan Katz, illustrated by David Catrow, Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2001. I hope that families today are singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," "I've Been Working on the Railroad," "Home on the Range," and "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" the same way we elders did with our children long ago. This book changes all the words! "I've Been Cleaning Up my Bedroom," "Give Me a Break," and "Stinky, Stinky Diaper Change" are the really silly new words to the previous songs. The illustrations are as zany and spirited as the words.

Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin by Lloyd Moss, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman, Simon and Schuster, 1995. A lone trombone plays a solo—but soon a trumpet joins, then a French horn, and so on, until the entire chamber group of ten is assembled on stage. Each instrument has its own poem as it joins in the music. The artwork is playful and flowing, and a mouse, cat, and dog add to the fun.

I found most of these books at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, Vermont, and I am very grateful to the librarians there, who always help me find what I need. Please go to your local library and look for and ask for more books about singing and music.

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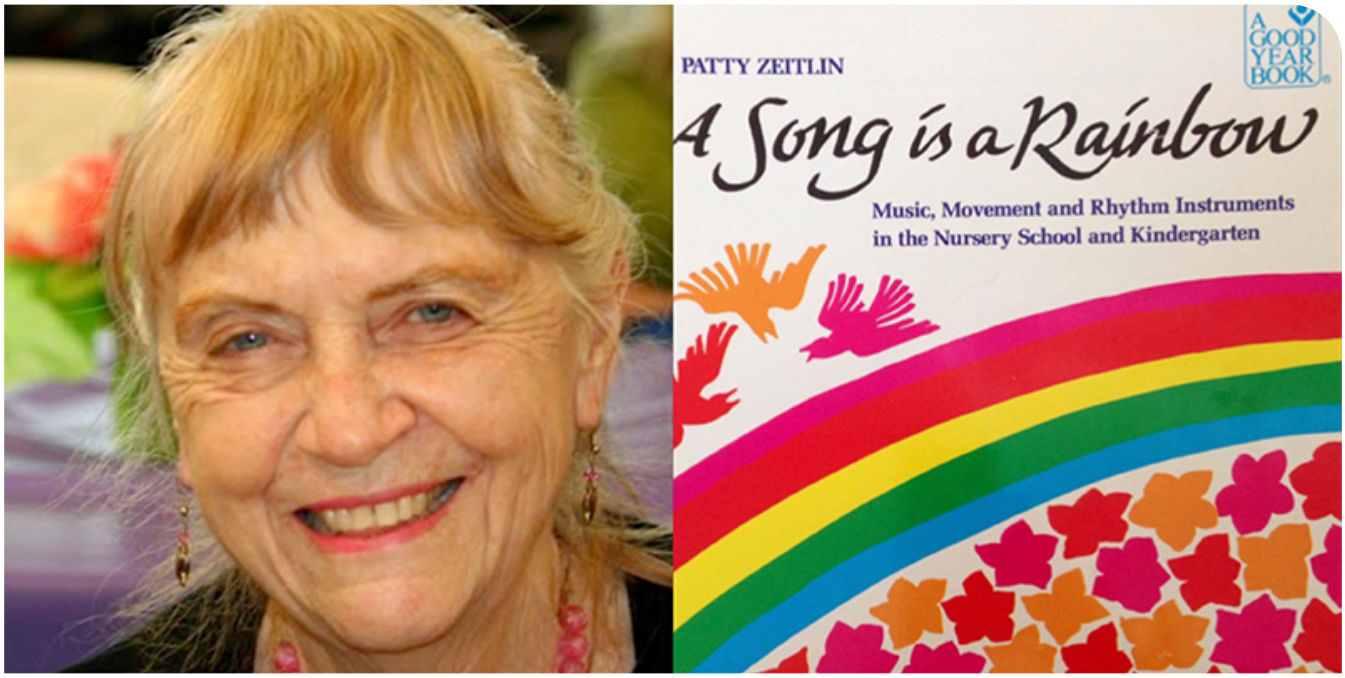
1. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/pass-it-on/author/liz-benjamin
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9VvlI6sHJw
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjUBB6f3Law


PATTY ZEITLIN
A GOOD YEAR BOOK
A Song is a Rainbow
Music, Movement and Rhythm Instruments
in the Nursery School and Kindergarten

In Memoriam: Patty Zeitlin

by Dan Crow

Throughout all the years I have composed and performed for young children, I have been fortunate to have been influenced and mentored by some brilliant songwriters. One of the most inspiring was my longtime friend, the author, playwright, songsmith, and early childhood icon, Patty Zeitlin.

The classic Educational Activities children's albums that Patty recorded with Marcia Berman are considered by some to be the birth of music for kids and their families. *Spin Spider Spin, I'm Not Small*, *Everybody Cries Sometimes*, *Won't You Be My Friend*, and *Rainy Day Dances*, *Rainy Day Songs* are pioneering works, alongside those of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Malvina Reynolds, and Hap Palmer records for young listeners.

Many of songs that most inspired me as a songwriter were written by Patty. I was honored she allowed me to record one of her masterpieces so many years ago for my album *The Giggling Dragon*. It was produced by another dear friend, Dennis Scott.

Spin Spider Spin
words and music by Patty Zeitlin
© 1974 Patty Zeitlin, Bullfrog Ballades
performed by Dan Crow

As I walked out this morning, spin spider spin
Just as the day was dawning, spin spider spin
I saw a tiny spider a pretty web begin
I saw him swing from a silver string, spin spider spin

As I came home this evening, spin spider spin
Just as the day was leaving, spin spider spin
I saw a tiny spider and pretty web all done
I saw him swing from a silver string before the setting sun

He's not the kind that bites you, spin spider spin
Just the kind that delights you, spin spider spin
A tiny harmless spider, the kind that catches flies
So let him swing from a silver string a pleasure to your eyes

We lost our friend, Patty, on March 17. My forty-some-year association with her is a huge part of my own career path. Her talent was at the zenith of songwriters I have known. Her melodies are pure magic, and her lyrics are compassionate, perceptive, and even mystical.

Patty Zeitlin was my collaborator, influencer, supporter, and dear friend.

Read the interview with Patty Zeitlin and Marcia Berman[1] *in the Spring 2000 issue of* Pass It On!

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1. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/media/member/pass-it-on/issues/spring-2000.pdf

In Memoriam: Uncle Ruthie Buell

Uncle Ruthie Buell

by Dave Kinnoin[1]

Uncle Ruthie Buell and I were pals. We went out to movies and meals, cooked each other lunch, fed the ducks at the park, and most gloriously, exchanged songs at her piano. I sang one for every ten by her—she was hard to stop once she got going, and I did not want her to stop!

She was a brilliant songwriter, poet, and performer. She was delightfully un-humble. I mean, uh, *confident*. Oh my, she was hilarious and smart and insightful and irreverent. She held us spellbound. She was a masterful storyteller whether at the dinner table or on the stage. To say she was candid is an understatement—she told it exactly like it was. She had phenomenal energy, passion, and drive. Her eyes sparkled. Her heart was true. Her laughter was magical. I kinda had a crush on her.

She adored her daughter Irene and sons Tony and Danny. She was devoted to her schoolchildren. She was a whirlwind of love and creativity and resourcefulness and wit. I can close my eyes and see her impish grin and recall the sometimes outlandish (in the most wonderful ways) things she did and said. She imitated no one—she was 100 percent Ruthie all the time. Oh, I'm so sad she had to go.

Uncle Ruthie sings "My Brother" at the 2010 CMN Conference.

Halfway Down the Stairs With Uncle Ruthie

by Jacki Breger

Ruthie did way more than produce an album or two. For longer than I can remember (and that's a *very* long time), she hosted a radio show for kids called *Halfway Down the Stairs*. It was an exceptionally wonderful program. I think it was an hour for a long time, and then the station cut it back to a half-hour. She read books to young children, told stories related to the topic of the day, and sang songs. She dealt with important issues way before it was *politically correct* to do so. She occasionally had guests as well. Plus, she did a three-hour Christmas Day program, with stories and songs appropriate to the day and season. I was pleased to be a guest on one of those programs, along with Fred Sokolow (one of the absolute best musicians in SoCal—he frequently backed up Ruthie, and me too). It was one of the highlights of my career. Ruthie also participated in an annual "Hanukah at Home" concert for many years, along with Marcia Berman, Dan Crow, and some other SoCal children's musicians. They also released an album of the songs that were the core of the show.

The radio show was her major contribution to the world of music for children and families and the primary reason she was honored with the Magic Penny Award. Some of you may remember that at her award ceremony, one of the participants was a young adult who had been raised on her program and wanted to be part of the tribute.

She could be pretty bawdy. Dave Kinnoin and I went to a performance of her adult material one time and got quite a taste. But she was the absolute opposite in her work with children —calm, low-key, genuine, and wonderful.

Read Uncle Ruthie's Magic Penny interview[2] in the Fall 2010 issue of Pass It On!

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1. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/pass-it-on/author/dave-kinnoin
2. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/media/member/pass-it-on/issues/fall-2010.pdf
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hCfwIszcms

Playlists for Fall 2023

Guest curator Debbie Wiedeman, early literacy coordinator at the public library in Morton Grove, Illinois, brings us two fall playlists devoted to songs about reading. From learning the alphabet to setting out on fabulous adventures through new worlds, these songs explore the countless gifts that children can find in the pages of a book. Listen and enjoy with readers of any age!

And when you're done, cuddle up with a book about reading from the list Debbie provides below, or one from Liz Benjamin's *Read and Sing: An Annotated, Recommended Booklist*[1] in this issue.

Spotify Songs

1. “Read a Book” – Katherine Dines
2. “I Am Crazy for Books” – Flor Bromley
3. “The Ductionary Am I” – Don Jordan and Nutshell Playhouse
4. “Cool Thing” – Dave Kinnoin
5. “Reading With You” – Bay Song
6. “One World, Many Stories” – Two of a Kind
7. “Animal ABC” – Charity and the Jamband
8. “Chimmy Cha-Cha” – Liz Buchanan
9. “Pages” – Dan Crow
10. “Storyland” – Carol Nicodemi
11. “Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?” – Mr. Elephant
12. “What Book?” – Ants on a Log
13. “Rockin’ the Library” – Jim Cosgrove
14. “ABCs with Lady B” – Lavender Blues
15. “I Love Reading” – Fabulous Lemon Drops
16. “ABCzzz” – Nanny Nikki and Saul Paul

YouTube Songs

1. “Read a Book” – Katherine Dines
2. “The Ductionary Am I” – Nutshell Playhouse
3. “One World, Many Stories” – Two of a Kind
4. “Animal ABC” – Charity and the Jamband
5. “Dig Deep Down” – Dan Crow
6. “Storyland” – Carol Nicodemi
7. “Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?” – Mr. Elephant
8. “Rockin’ the Library” – Jim Cosgrove
9. “ABCs the Lavender Blues Way” – Lavender Blues
10. “I Love Reading” – Fabulous Lemon Drops

Books About Reading

1. ***Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)*** by Barbara Bottner, illustrated by Michael Emberley
2. ***Book! Book! Book!*** by Deborah Bruss
3. ***The Library Book*** by Tom Chapin and Michael Mark, illustrated by Chuck Groenink
4. ***Library Girl*** by Karen Henry Clark, illustrated by Sheryl Murray
5. ***The Snatchabook*** by Helen Docherty, illustrated by Thomas Docherty
6. ***The Wonderful Book*** by Leonid Gore
7. ***The Reader*** by Amy Hest, illustrated by Lauren Castillo
8. ***The Incredible Book Eating Boy*** by Oliver Jeffers
9. ***Froggy Goes to the Library*** by Jonathan London, illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz
10. ***Look!*** by Jeff Mack
11. ***Lola at the Library*** by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw
12. ***How to Read a Story*** by Kate Messner
13. ***The Not So Quiet Library*** by Zachariah OHora
14. ***Love You, Hug You, Read to You!*** by Tish Rabe, illustrated by Frank Endersby
15. ***Born to Read*** by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Marc Brown
16. ***Wild About Books*** by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Marc Brown
17. ***Bunny's Book Club*** by Annie Silvestro, illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss
18. ***We Are in a Book!*** by Mo Willems

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1. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/pass-it-on/read-and-sing
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=videoseries

I Love Reading

words and music by Dez and Vanessa Staunton[1]
© 2013 Fabulous Lemon Drops

This song combines a playful journey through some much-loved books with a catchy refrain that perfectly reflects this issue's theme. Check out the video and sing along with our book-loving puppet friend as you celebrate the many joys of reading!

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1. https://fabulouslemondrops.com.au
2. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/media/pass-it-on/i-love-reading/I%20Love%20Reading%20song%20sheet.pdf
3. https://journal.childrensmusic.org/media/pass-it-on/i-love-reading/I%20Love%20Reading%20song%20sheet.pdf
4. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ouL4ZMEdIs

I Love Reading

words and music by [Dez and Vanessa Staunton]
© 2013 Fabulous Lemon Drops

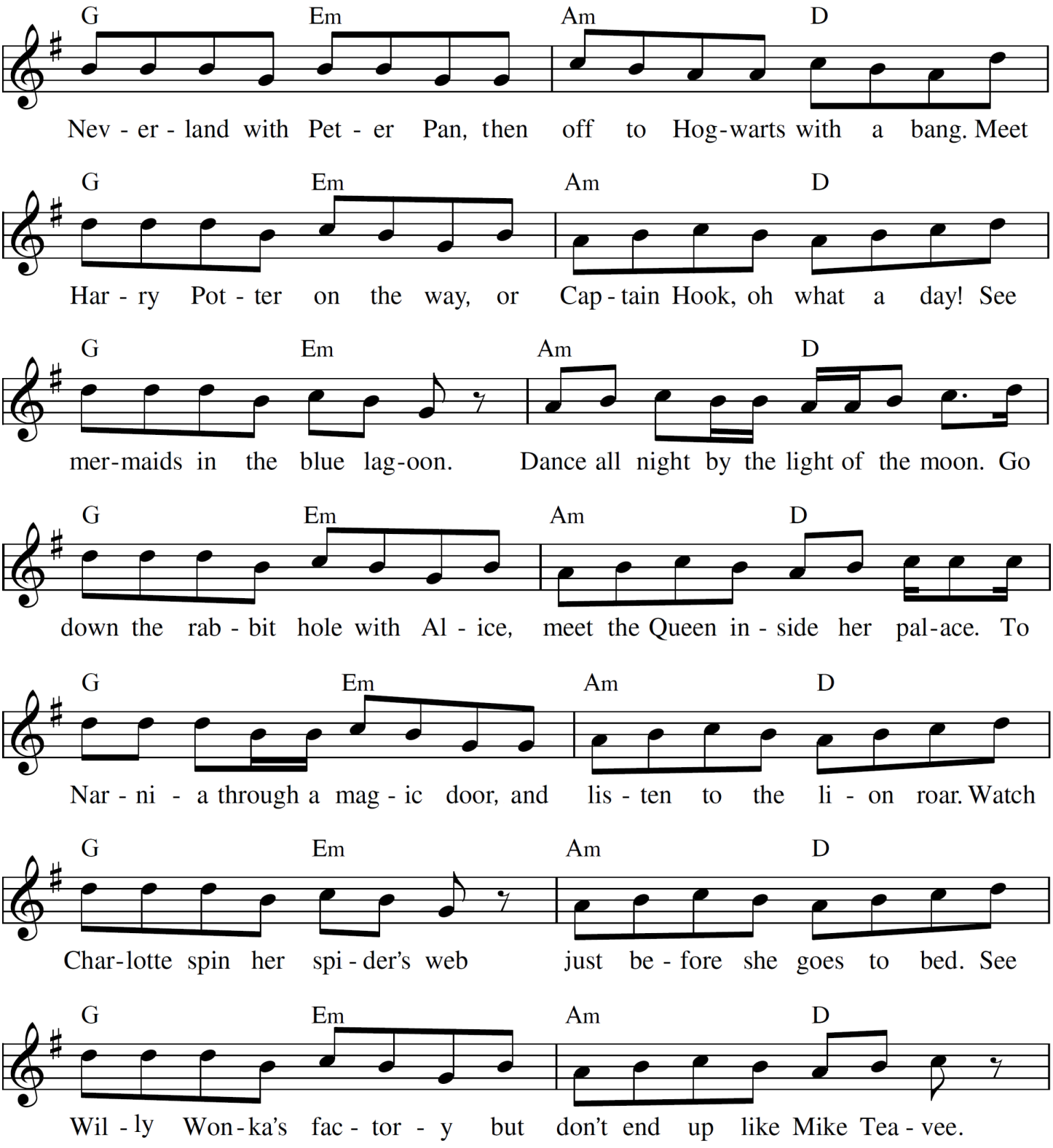
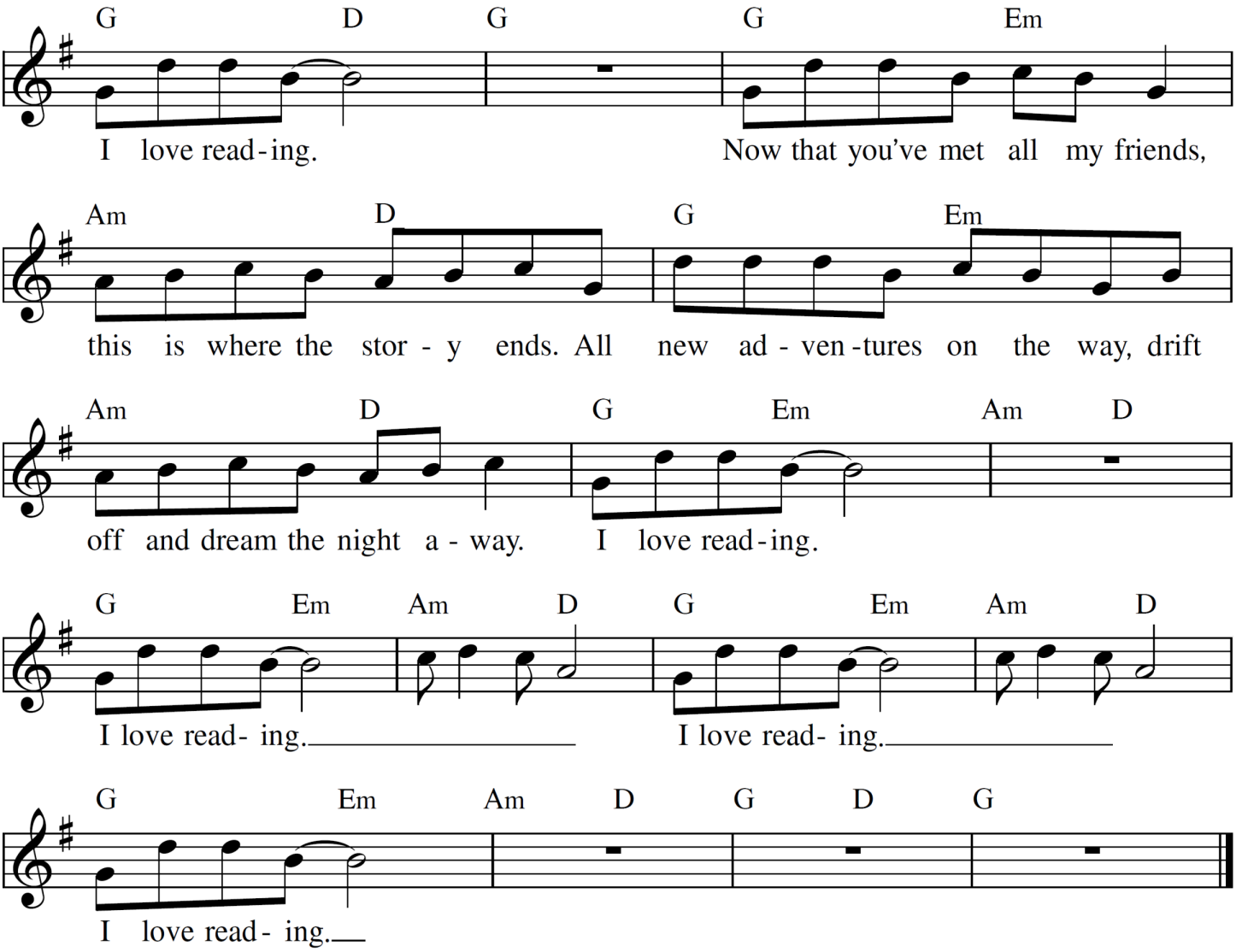
G D G G Em
I love read - ing books, it's fun. I

Am D G Em Am D
of-ten read them with my mum. I like read-ing to ex-plore. There's no bet-ter way I'm sure.

G D G G Em
I love read - ing.___ There are man - y books to choose.

Am D G Em
Get on board, you just can't lose. Books ex - pand your mind, it's true.

Am D G D G
Read-ing books is good for you. I love read - ing.___

G Em Am D
When I'm sit-ting on my bed, I go ex - plor - ing in my head to

G Em Am D
Nev - er - land with Pet - er Pan, then off to Hog-warts with a bang. Meet
G Em Am D
Har - ry Pot - ter on the way, or Cap - tain Hook, oh what a day! See
G Em Am D
mer-maids in the blue lag-oon. Dance all night by the light of the moon. Go
G Em Am D
down the rab - bit hole with Al - ice, meet the Queen in - side her pal-ace. To
G Em Am D
Nar - ni - a through a mag - ic door, and lis - ten to the li - on roar. Watch
G Em Am D
Char-lotte spin her spi - der's web just be - fore she goes to bed. See
G Em Am D
Wil - ly Won - ka's fac - tor - y but don't end up like Mike Tea - vee.

G D G G Em
I love read-ing. Now that you've met all my friends,
Am D G Em
this is where the stor - y ends. All new ad - ven-tures on the way, drift
Am D G Em Am D
off and dream the night a - way. I love read-ing.
G Em Am D G Em Am D
I love read- ing. I love read- ing.
G Em Am D G D G
I love read- ing.

I love reading books, it's fun.
I often read them with my mum.
I like reading to explore.
There's no better way I'm sure.
I love reading.

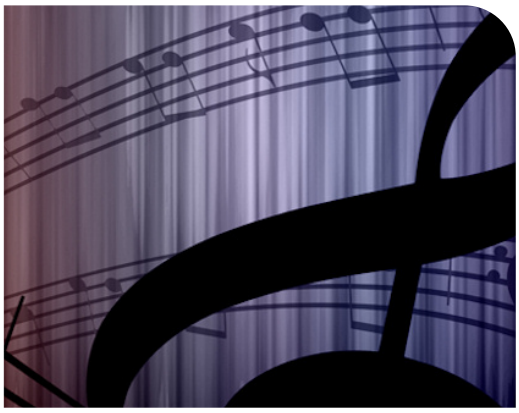
There are many books to choose.
Get on board, you just can't lose.
Books expand your mind, it's true.
Reading books is good for you.
I love reading.

When I'm sitting on my bed,
I go exploring in my head
To Neverland with Peter Pan,
Then off to Hogwarts with a bang.
Meet Harry Potter on the way,
Or Captain Hook, oh, what a day!
See mermaids in the blue lagoon,
Dance all night by the light of the moon.
Go down the rabbit hole with Alice,
Meet the Queen inside her palace.
To Narnia through a magic door,
And listen to the lion roar.
Watch Charlotte spin her spider's web
Just before she goes to bed.
See Willy Wonka's factory
But don't end up like Mike Teavee.
I love reading.

Now that you've met all my friends,
This is where the story ends.
All new adventures on the way,
Drift off and dream the night away.
I love reading! *(4x)*

About PIO!

Pass It On! publishes thoughtful, informative articles on children's music, empowering those who teach, write, perform, share, and produce it to strengthen their craft and their advocacy. All articles are open to the public, providing CMN members and the wider community with news about exciting programs, music history, business tips, and in-depth interviews with music legends. Our songs for children —serious and silly, traditional and brand new, for all ages and from all over the world—are meant to be learned and shared.



CMN members receive exclusive access to songs and to all issues of *Pass It On!* Join Now[1]

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How to Submit Something to *Pass It On!*

Articles

Pass It On! always needs stories from members about what they're doing and how they're doing it. If you are a CMN member, you are invited to share your story. After all, that's the whole point of CMN.

Playlists

Pass It On! playlists feature songs by CMN members on Spotify and YouTube. Songs related to each issue's theme will be solicited regularly.

Interested? Read our guidelines for submission[8] to *Pass It On!*

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